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The Nonpartisan League. By HERBERT E. GASTON. New York: Harcourt, Brace and Howe, 1920. Pp. viii+325. \$1.75.

The Story of the Nonpartisan League. By CHARLES EDWARD RUSSELL. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1920. Pp. 332. \$2.00

The Despoilers. By J. EDMUND BUTTREE. Boston: The Christopher Publishing House, 1920. Pp. 314. \$2.00.

The Nonpartisan League. By WILLIAM LANGER, Attorney-General of North Dakota. Mandan, N.D.: Morton County Farmers' Press, 1920. Pp. 240. (Paper.)

Mr. Gaston was formerly an editorial writer for the Nonpartisan League, but he endeavors to give a fair and accurate account of its history and development, though frankly favoring it. His book is much the best of the four reviewed. The author recognizes some of the League's weaknesses, but gives a clear picture of its point of view.

Over half of Mr. Russell's book is a history of the abuses of the grain trade and the farmers' grievances against the Minneapolis dealers. He outlines the League's program and eulogizes its accomplishments, but the account is somewhat fragmentary and decidedly partisan.

The Despoilers is chiefly a collection of anti-league pamphlets, containing a deal of preachment on the values of individualism, interspersed with anathemas against the League. There is an obvious effort to impress the reader with the author's knowledge of Scripture, Shakespeare, and classical authors, more loquacious than convincing. The book is a good example of the sort of literature to which the League has given rise, but adds nothing to one's understanding of the situation.

Mr. Langer's book is unique, coming from the attorney-general of the state and "published under penalty of the anti-liar law of North Dakota providing for one year in the penitentiary." He challenges the League to disprove his indictments of its incapacity and to bring him into court under this law. Though vitriolic in style, Mr. Langer's pamphlet presents facts against the League which are not satisfactorily answered by either Mr. Gaston or Mr. Russell, and which the League must clearly refute if it is to make its case with even a friendly public.

One cannot but be impressed that here is a movement which furnishes unusual material for the sociologist and social psychologist, but that as yet we have no serious study of it. Mr. Gaston clearly recognizes the weakness of Mr. Townley's domination of the organization, but claims that has been necessary to win the fight. Irrespective of the

theoretical aspects of a more democratic form of organization, one cannot but wonder what might be the outcome of the movement if its leader should be stricken. Whether such a movement for democracy can succeed permanently will largely depend upon ability to develop leadership which is loyal and efficient but independent.

DWIGHT SANDERSON

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Democratic Industry: A Practical Study in Social History. By JOSEPH HUSSLEIN, S.J., PH.D. New York: P. J. Kennedy & Sons, 1920. Pp. 362. \$1.50.

The viewpoint: "The Catholic writers, whose doctrines dated back to the Middle Ages . . . were clearly the originators of modern democracy. Its entire structure, in so far as it is true and sound, rests upon the work of the Catholic schoolmen. . . ."—P. 277.

The aim of the new Catholic guild system: "The full possibilities of increased production will not be realized so long as the majority of the workers remain mere wage earners. The majority must somehow become owners, or at least in part, of the means of production. They can be enabled to reach this stage gradually through co-operative productive societies and copartnership arrangements. In the former the workers own and manage the industries themselves; in the latter they own a substantial part of the corporate stock and exercise a reasonable share in the management. However slow the attainment of these ends they will have to be reached before we can have a thoroughly efficient system of production, or an industrial social order that will be secure from the danger of revolution."—P. 292, quoted from *Reconstruction Pamphlets*, No. 1, p. 22.

VICTOR E. HELLEBERG

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

Italian Women in Industry. By LOUISE C. ODENCRANTZ. New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 1919. Pp. v+345. \$1.50.

This is an intensive study of living and working conditions of 1,095 young Italian women, representing 61 industries, in that section of New York City which lies below Fourteenth Street. While the investigation deals with pre-war conditions, it contains information valuable to those who are now trying to dovetail our immigrant groups into an American citizenry. Wages are higher today, and expenditures greater, but it is doubtful if conditions are otherwise much changed.